

# **Mono-, Bi- or Transcultural?**

## **First Reflections on Identity Constructions of International Mobiles based on Data of from the German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS)**

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# Changes in identity formation in a globalized world

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## Nowadays:

- “Geographical borders” are physically and politically still present
- **However:** Due to globalization, mass transportation, technological devices, communication developments
  - Wiping out distances between countries and cultures (Nedergaard et al. 2015)
  - Back and forth movement and communication across geographical borders is becoming a lesser obstacle (Arnett 2002; Moore & Barker 2012)
- Traditional perspectives of a cultural consensus of a nation challenged by individual experiences, intra-subjective feeling of being part of something (Barros & Albert 2019)
- **Thus:** Blurring of borders of belonging and cultural identities (e.g. separation between an immigrant’s host- and home culture) (Marsico & Tateo 2017, p. 3).
- **Therefore:** Migration research raises essential questions: related to changes in the feelings of belonging, social membership and cultural identity



# Processes of identity formation from a life-course perspective

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- Dynamic process of interaction between the individual and its constantly changing sociocultural contexts
- Complex and continually changing life-long process  
(Elder 2003; Mayer 2009; Marsico & Tateo 2017 ; Murdock 2017; Varnum & Grossmann 2017)
- Negotiations of boundaries: oscillating in time and space → life-course perspective (Hermans & Kempen 1993; Witte 2017)
- Producing new forms of belonging and identity (e.g. Individuals belong to different cultural spaces at the same time (Fitzgerald 2012; Marsico & Tateo 2017)
- E.g. Bi-Cultural, Hybrid Identities, Transcultured Identities



# Research questions

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*“We lack information on how many people leave their country each year to settle elsewhere and who these emigrants are. The impact of migration on the individual [...] is only partly understood.”*

*(Willekens et al. 2016 in Science: 897)*

- **Focus:** Identity construction and belonging of international mobile Germans currently moved abroad.

**RQ1:** How are the identities and belongings experienced at this very early step of migration?

**RQ2:** What factors contribute to identification with the host-country?



**Data:**

***The German Emigration and Remigration  
Panel Study (GERPS)***



# The German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS)

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**Funding:**  Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

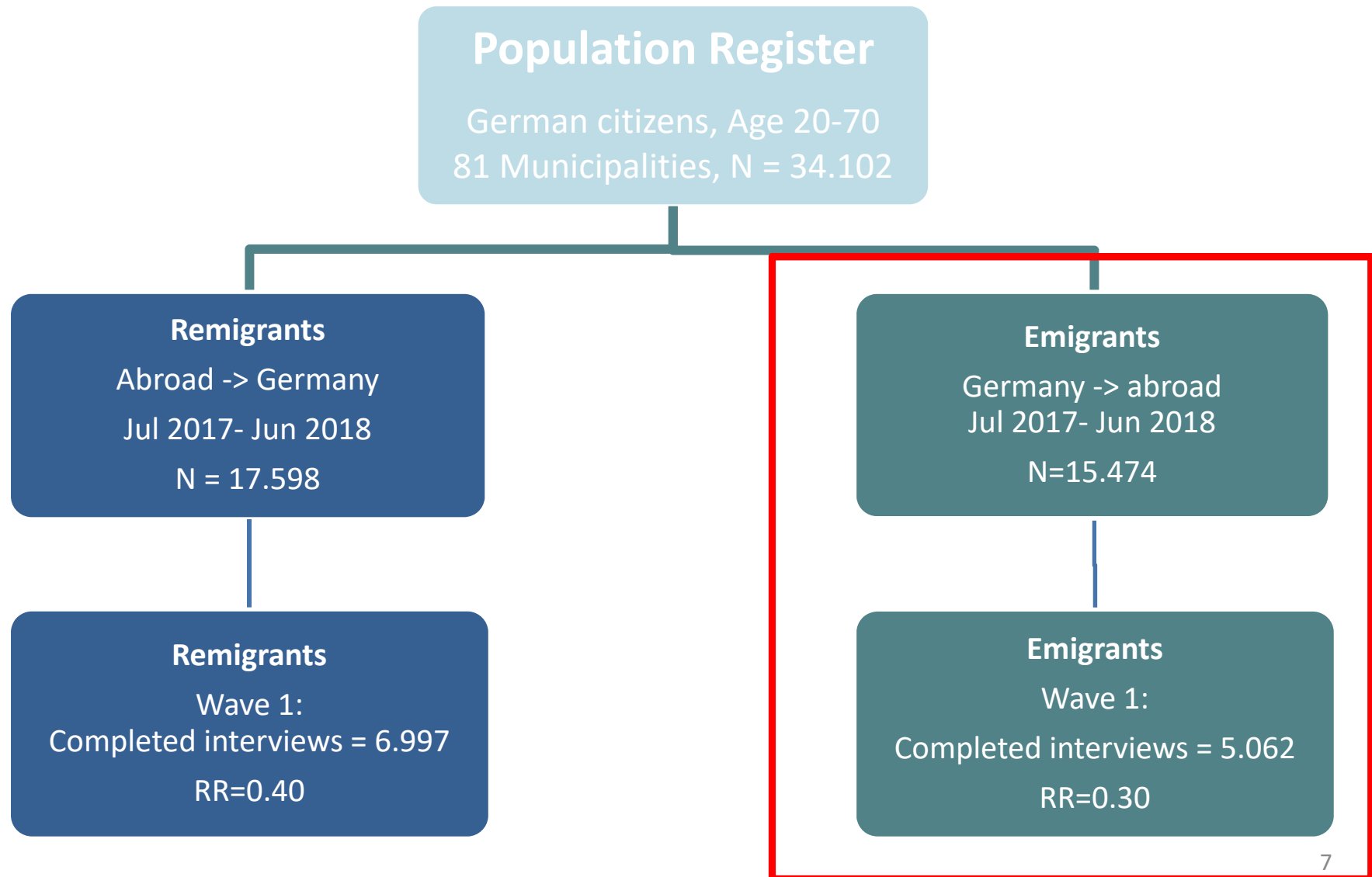
**Project Team:** University of Duisburg-Essen, Federal Institute of  
Population Research

**Aim:**

- Gather information on individuals leaving their (home-) country from a life-course perspective & determine the individual consequences of migration
- Collect a novel panel dataset on international mobile individuals
  - at least 4 waves between 2018 and 2020
- 2 Subsamples:
  - a. Individuals leaving Germany (Emigrant Sample)
  - b. Individuals that left Germany and currently returned to Germany (Remigrant Sample)

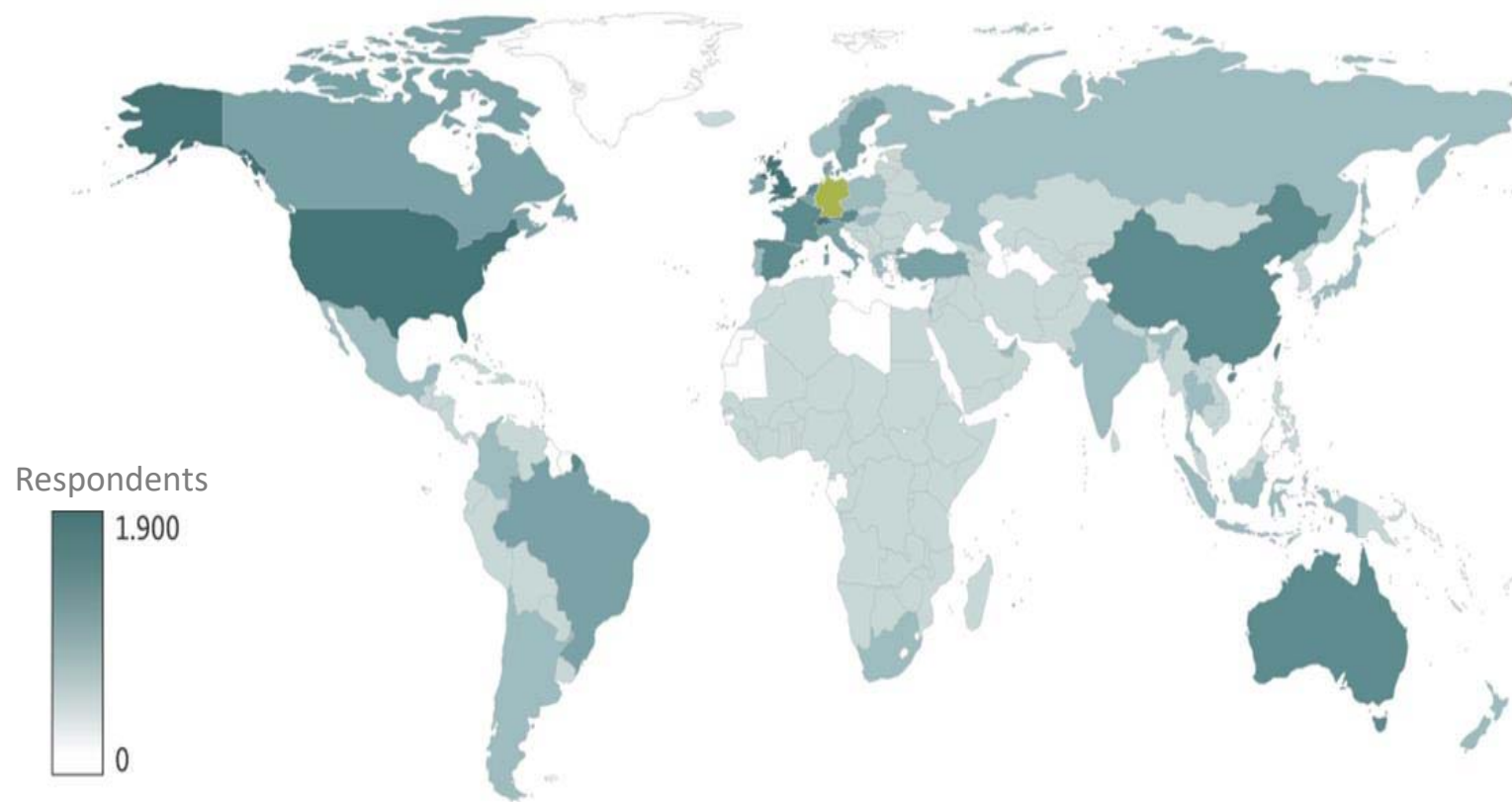
**Data Base:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wave

# The sampling frame for Wave 1



## Countries of origin / destination

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GERPS contains information on emigrants in 130 countries and on returnees from 160 countries.





# Results



# Research question 1

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**RQ1:** How are the identities and belongings experienced at this very early step of migration?

- Marginalized
- mono- or
- bi or trans-cultural way?

## How are the identities and belongings experienced at this very early step of migration?


### Basis for Identity analysis within the questionnaire

And now we would like to know how strongly you feel bound to certain places or regions and the citizens there.

How strongly do you feel bound to...

	Not bonded at all	Little at all	Quite bonded	Strongly bonded
...				
... the country in which you currently live (United Kingdom) as a whole and its citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... Germany as a whole and its citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...				

### Identity Variable

- Bi-/Transcultured 
- Mono cultured in direction to the host country
- Mono cultured in direction to Germany
- Marginalized

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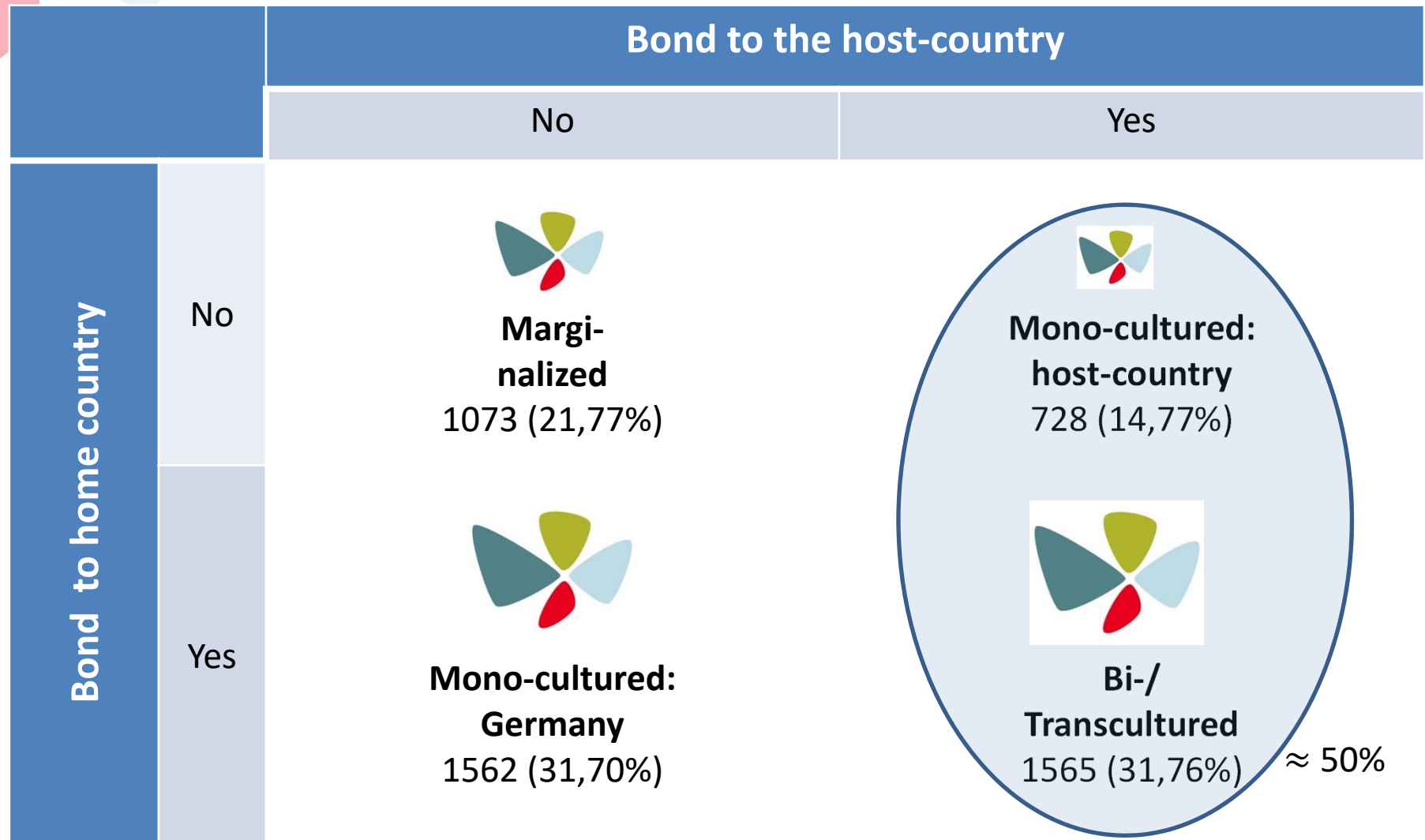
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... Germany as a whole and its citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...				

### Identity Variable

- Bi-/Transcultured
- Mono cultured in direction to the host country
- Mono cultured in direction to Germany
- Marginalized 

## Proportion of different identity-constructs within the emigrant sample (n=4928)





## Research question 2

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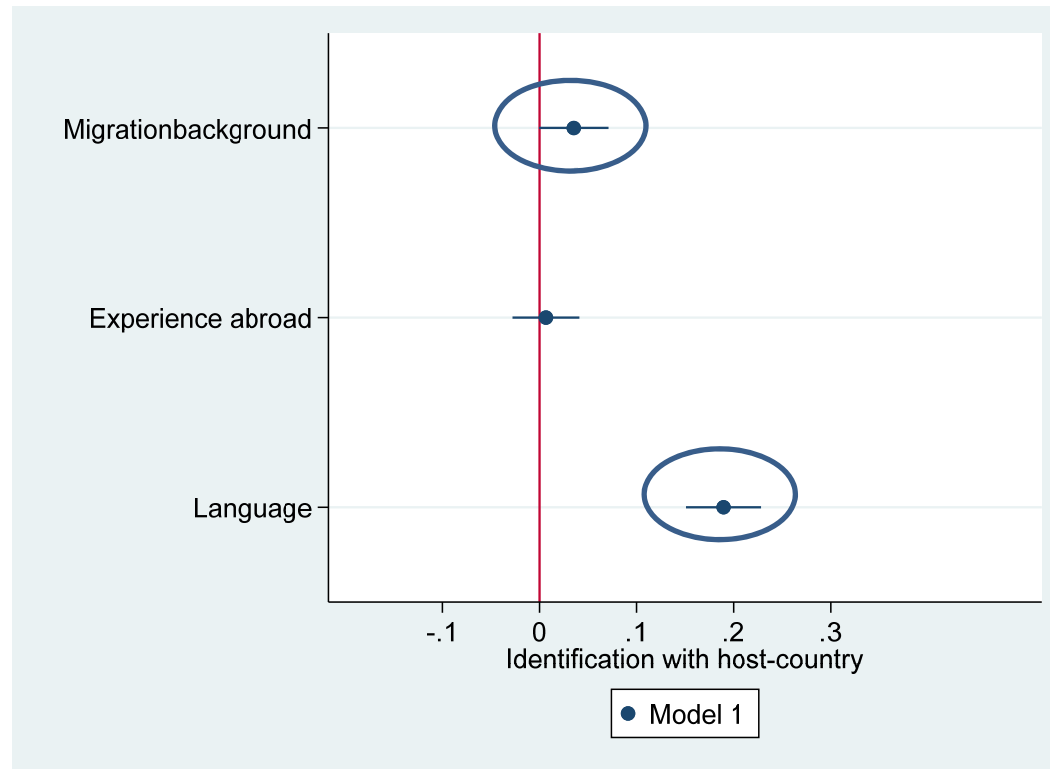
### **RQ2:** What factors contribute to identification with the host-country?

- Intercultural competences (e.g. Barros & Albert 2019)
- Social embeddedness (e.g. De Vroome & Van Tubergen, 2014; Güngör & Tansel, 2014; Haug, 2008).
- Intension to stay (e.g. Albert & Barros 2016, De Vroome & Van Tubergen, 2014)



# What factors contribute to identification with the host-country?

## *Model 1: Intercultural Competencies*



Source: German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study Wave 1; Emigrant Sample; unweighted.

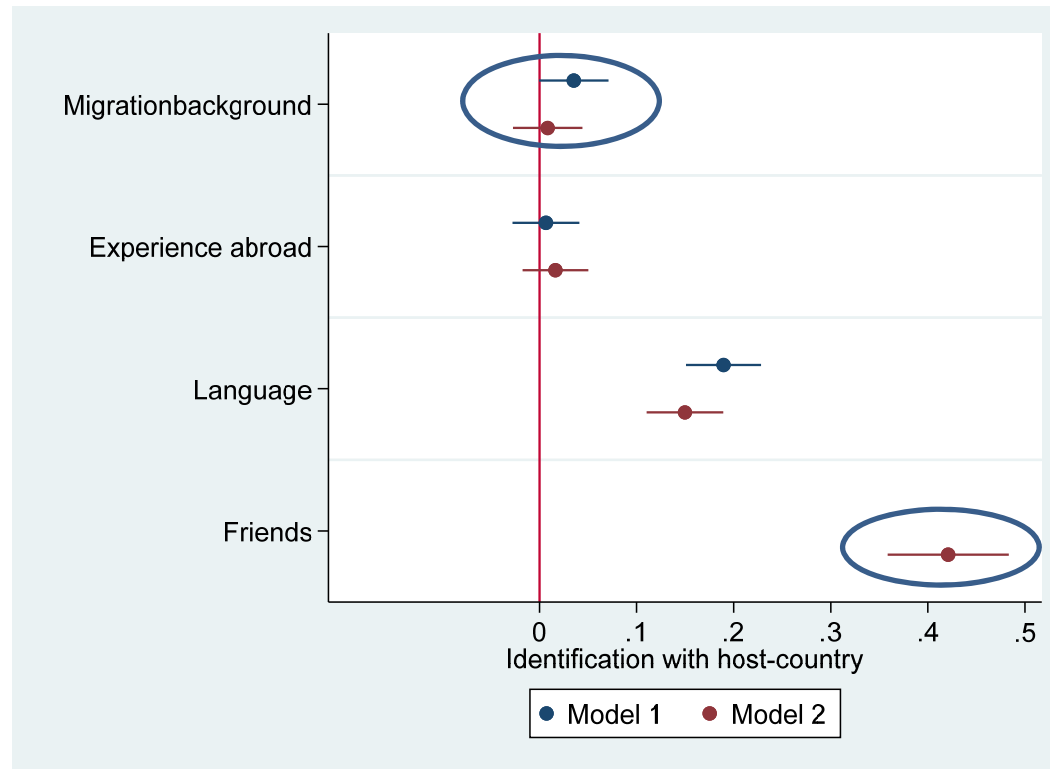
Coefficients: AME

Model Fit: McFadden's  $R^2$  (Model 1) = .042 ;

Each model controlled for Age, Gender, Education, Distance of the host-country, duration of the stay

# What factors contribute to identification with the host-country?

## *Model 1: Intercultural Competencies & Model 2: Embeddedness*



Source: German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study Wave 1; Emigrant Sample; unweighted.

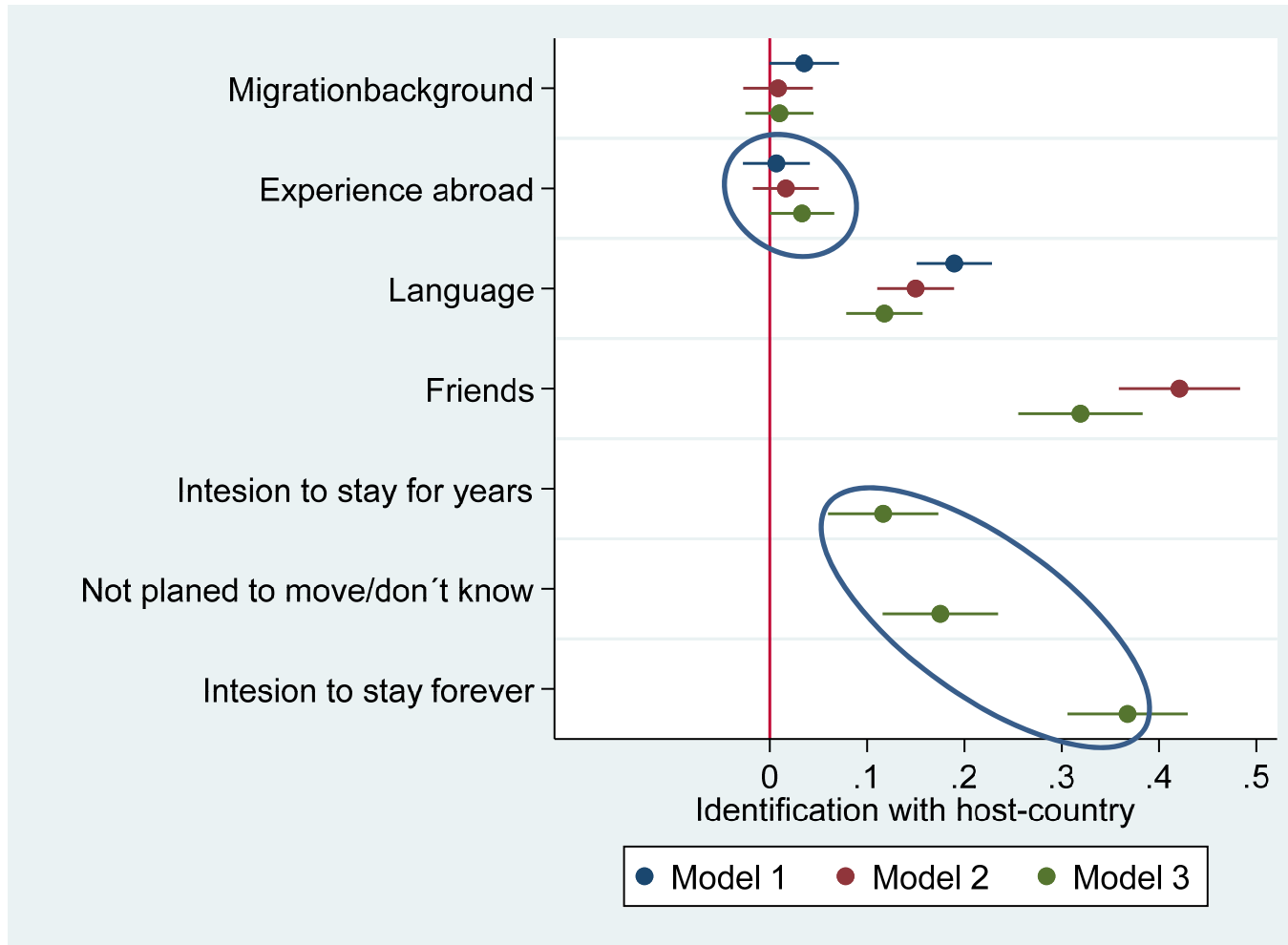
Coefficients AME

Model Fit: McFadden's  $R^2$  (Model 1) = .042 ; (Model 2) = .073

Each model controlled for Age, Gender, Education, Distance of the host-country, duration of the stay

## What factors contribute to identification with the host-country?

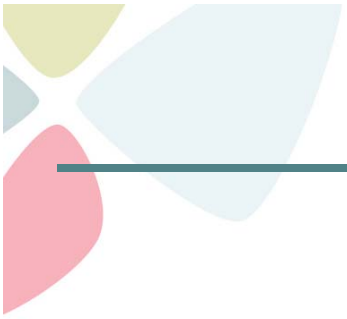
*Model 1: Intercultural Competencies, Model 2: Embeddedness & Model 3: Intension to stay*



*Coefficients AME*

*Model Fit: McFadden's R<sup>2</sup> (Model 1) = .042 ; (Model 2) = .073; (Model 3) = .108*

*Each model controlled for Age, Gender, Education, Distance of the host-country, duration of the stay*







# Conclusion

# Conclusion

How are the identities and belongings experienced at this very early step of migration?

- All scenarios found in our data
- High connectedness with host-population at a very early stage of migration

		Bond to the host-country	
		No	Yes
Bond to home country	No	 <b>Marginalized</b> 1073 (21,77%)	 <b>Mono-cultured: host-country</b> 728 (14,77%)
	Yes	 <b>Mono-cultured: Germany</b> 1562 (31,70%)	 <b>Bi-/Transcultural</b> 1565 (31,76%)

*What factors contribute to identification with the host-country?*

- The receiving language = relevant competence for the integration and the feeling of belonging to the host-culture (Barros & Albert, 2019)
- Social embeddedness/friends within the host county are as well important
- Intension to stay at the host-country had the strongest influence on the connectedness
- Previous Migration experience had a small significant effect when adding Intension to stay to the model



# Conclusion

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***Why such a strong effect of intension to stay at the host-country ?***

## **Research Population:**

- **Differing** from traditional research populations of migration research
- **Structurally:** recently migrated, mainly well-educated, moved due to heterogeneous motives
- **One thing in common:** decision to move abroad was planned, conscious and voluntarily

## **Therefore:**





- Adding “**migration history**” to the perspective of integration research (e.g. stage models) (Erlinghagen 2016; Kley 2011; Valsiner 2014)
- *Life course perspective = Research on Migration (decision) + Research on Integration* (Erlinghagen & Ette, in preparation)





# Migration Research from a life-course Perspective based on GERPS Data: Development of Identity

(Source: Erlinghagen & Ette, in preparation)





**First stage:**  
Consider a and deciding to migrate.  
**Second stage:**  
Actual event of migration.

**Life-course perspective on Migration**  
 $t_0$  (border crossing)

		Bond to the host-country	
		No	Yes
Bond to home country	No	 Marginalized 20%	 Mono-cultured: host-country 10%
	Yes	 Mono-cultured: Germany 50%	 Bi-/ Transcultural 20%

		Bond to the host-country	
		No	Yes
Bond to home country	No	 Marginalized 22%	 Mono-cultured: host-country 15%
	Yes	 Mono-cultured: Germany 32%	 Bi-/ Transcultural 32%

**Third Stage:**  
Integration research  
**Fourth stage:**  
further migrations  
(On- or Remigration)

		Bond to the host-country	
		No	Yes
Bond to home country	No	 Marginalized 10%	 Mono-cultured: host-country 25%
	Yes	 Mono-cultured: Germany 15%	 Bi-/ Transcultural 50%



# Outlook

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- Extension of the Perspective
  - Include motives and decision to move ( $t_{-1}$ )
  - Multi Level approaches on Country Classifications and Cultural Dimensions
- Reflecting other levels of Identification
  - Identification with Germany
  - The globalization process might even create a more globalized identity which adds to the already complex architecture of identity formation (Arnett 2002)  
→ First Analysis: Strong identification to EU compared to Non-Mobile Germans
- Remigrant sample
- Life-course perspective (Stayer, Remigrants, Onmigrants)
  - Wave 2
  - Wave 3
  - Wave 4
  - ...?





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# Thank you for your attention!

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Follow GERPS on Researchgate:

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/German-Emigration-and-Remigration-Panel-Study-GERPS>

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